
THE ACTS CHURCH 2:42
"EXPERIENCE REAL CHURCH"

September 8, 2013

TEXT: *2 Thessalonians 2:13-17 KJV*

But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation ***through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth***: (14) Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. (15) Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle. (16) Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, (17) Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

INTRO: *Chosen to What?*

A mother came home one afternoon from the grocery store and walked into her home and everything looked pretty much the same, though it was a little bit quieter than usual. She looked into the middle of the living room and ***5 of her darlings were sitting around in a circle***, exceedingly quiet, doing something, with something in the middle of a circle. So she put down the sacks of groceries and walked over closely and looked and saw that ***they were playing with 5 of the cutest skunks you can imagine***. She was instantly **terrified** and **she screamed**, "Run children, run! **Each child grabbed a skunk and ran, in 5 different directions**. She was beside herself and **screamed louder, more frantically, with great gusto.** It so scared the children that ***each one squeezed his skunk!*** As the writer put it, ***"Skunks don't like to be squeezed!"***

Men much wiser than I have set out to tackle the subject of ***Predestination***, ***Election***, ***God's Foreknowledge***, and ***Man's God-Given Free Will***.

Some folks might consider this sermon kind of like squeezing Skunks!

I. *There is No Period After Salvation*

There Is A Process Here

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 KJV

But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: (14) Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Now, look at it. How does God choose us? How is the way? How do you know? "God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through"—the Greek word is e-n, en—"sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth"

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God's purpose is that salvation is provided ***THROUGH SANCTIFICATION OF THE SPIRIT and BELIEF OF THE TRUTH.***

Then the elective purpose of God is not for some to go heaven and some to hell. It is the sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth. And the outworking of the sanctification and the belief of the truth ultimately is heaven. But God does not elect some to go to heaven and some to go to hell. God elects the sanctification of the Spirit and the belief of the truth, and when a man opens his heart to the truth, and when a man opens his soul to sanctification, then the outworking of that leads one to glory, to heaven, but to the other is to damnation and to hell.

Now you look at that a moment. The doctrine of the election in the Word of God and in human life, as I see it; the doctrine of election, of predestination, is never mechanical. That is, God doesn't make a decree and then these human beings, like automations obey it impersonally, like you'd turn wheels and cogs. There's no such a thing as that in the Bible. If that were true, then everybody would be saved, for it is the will of God that all men come to the knowledge of the truth. But the elective purpose of God is the sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth. And those who turn their hearts to receive the truth, to believe the truth, and to be sanctified by the Spirit, they are the elect of God! And those who refuse, they are the non-elect of God!

"W A Crisswell"

But What About Those Who Refuse To Believe

John 3:17-21 KJV

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. (18) He that believeth on him is not condemned: ***but he that believeth not*** is condemned already, **because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God**. (19) And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and ***men loved darkness rather than light***, because their deeds were evil. (20) For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. (21) But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

II. *Because They Believed Not The Truth*

2 Thessalonians 2:8-11 KJV

And then shall that ***Wicked*** be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: (9) Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, (10) And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness ***in them that perish***; **because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.** (11) And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

Not because **God has not chosen them** ***but because*** **they did not receive the truth in order to be saved.**

These others who refuse the truth: God shall send them strong delusion, that they should ***believe the lie of the antichrist***, that they all might be damned" [2 Thessalonians 2:11]. ***"But you,*** we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren, because God has from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit ***and belief of the truth***"

God's elective purpose is not to heaven, it's not to hell, but God's elective purpose is the sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth. And the man who opens his heart to the truth is elected, and the man who says, "No, I will not open my heart to the truth," that man is non-elected. And he has no cause, as Paul discusses in the ninth chapter of Romans, to find fault with God about that—none at all.

"W A Crisswell"

III. *Therefore – Stand Fast*

2 Thessalonians 2:13-17 KJV

But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: (14) Whereunto ***he called you*** by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. (15) ***Therefore***, brethren, ***stand fast***, and ***hold the traditions*** which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle. (16) Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, (17) Comfort your hearts, and ***stablish you in every good word and work***.

He Called You

You Received the Gospel and Obtained His Glory

Therefore, Brethren, Stand Fast

Hold Onto the Traditions – His Holy Word

Be Established in Word and Work